

83755 Com. Bliss, supported by Com. Gutowski, moved to suspend the rules in order to consider the following resolution.

Carried: Yeas: -6 Nays: -0

Com. Shaffer, supported by Com. Bliss, moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS:

(1) Local governments in Michigan have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services; and

(2) Michigan businesses have struggled with an uncompetitive tax on business; and

(3) Michigan's personal property tax is an antiquated unfair double tax on Michigan's small businesses; and

(4) Small businesses and manufacturers power our economy and are the largest contributor to job growth in Michigan; and

(5) No other state in our region taxes business equipment the way Michigan does - and most of those states do not tax it at all, which makes Michigan significantly less competitive when it comes to job creation and business investment; and

(6) Michigan communities have struggled for years to pay for essential services like police, fire, ambulances, schools and jails; and

(7) Michigan communities have relied on this shrinking source of Personal Property Tax revenue to provide other community services as well, including roads, transportation and libraries; and

(8) With bipartisan support the Michigan legislature has voted to reform the antiquated personal property tax to help increase Michigan's competitiveness with other states and remove a tax to allow more business investment and create more jobs while making local communities more financially stable at the same time; and

(9) This is not a constitutional amendment but the state constitution requires Michigan voters to approve certain changes in local taxes; and

(10) Local governments and businesses alike have shared frustration with administering and complying with this uncompetitive tax on equipment; and

(11) The proposal will make Michigan more competitive, which will help local communities to attract more businesses and create local jobs; and

(12) If this proposal is not passed by Michigan voters, the antiquated unfair tax on our state's small businesses and manufacturers will go back into effect and Michigan communities will not have stable revenue to fund local services; and

(13) Officials of the City of Grand Rapids worked with the Lt. Governor, Governor, Legislature, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and local government partners to develop this plan; and

(14) The proposal is supported by the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Association of Police Organizations, Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Sheriffs Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Independent Businesses, the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and our regional community partners; therefore

RESOLVED, the Grand Rapids City Commission hereby expresses its strong support for Proposal 1 creating the Local Community Stabilization Fund, reforming the personal property tax and strengthening our communities. We urge our residents to vote YES on this proposal on August 5, 2014.

Adopted: Yeas: -6 Nays: -0

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true transcript of the action of the City Commission of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in public session held July 22, 2014.



Darlene O'Neal, City Clerk

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